

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN MANITOBA
AND N.-W. T.

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1. THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE is published on the fifth and twentieth of each month. It is impartial and independent of all cliques or parties, handsomely illustrated with original engravings, and furnishes the most profitable, practical and reliable information for farmers, dairymen, gardeners, and stockmen, of any publication in Canada.
2. TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.—In Canada, United States, England, Ireland and Scotland, \$1.50 per year, in advance. \$2.00 when not paid in advance. All other countries, 12s.
3. ADVERTISING RATES.—Single insertion, 10 cents per line, agate. Contract rates furnished on application.
4. THE ADVOCATE is sent to subscribers until an explicit order is received for its discontinuance. All payments of arrears must be made as required by law.
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7. THE DATE ON YOUR LABEL shows to what time your subscription is paid.
8. ANONYMOUS communications will receive no attention.
9. LETTERS intended for publication should be written on one side of the paper only.
10. WE INVITE FARMERS to write us on any agricultural topic. We are always pleased to receive practical articles. For such as we consider valuable we will pay ten cents per inch printed matter. Criticisms of Articles, Suggestions How to Improve the ADVOCATE, Descriptions of New Grains, Roots or Vegetables not generally known, Particulars of Experiments Tried, or Improved Methods of Cultivation, are each and all welcome. Contributions sent us must not be furnished other papers until after they have appeared in our columns. Rejected matter will be returned on receipt of postage.
11. ALL COMMUNICATIONS in reference to any matter connected with this paper should be addressed as below, and not to any individual connected with the paper.

Address—THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE, or
THE WILLIAM WELD COMPANY (LIMITED),
WINNIPEG, MANITOBA.

The Change to a Weekly.

In another column will be found a full announcement regarding our intention to change the "Farmer's Advocate" from a semi-monthly to a weekly publication.

Our Christmas Number.

November 20th, we will have something to say of the Christmas number, and the preparations on foot to make it better than ever before.

Was the Editor Wrong?

Village parson (entering country editor's office):
"You promised to publish that sermon I sent you on Monday, but I do not find it in the latest issue of your paper."

Editor—"I sent it up. It surely went in. What was the name of it?"

Parson—"Feed my lambs."

Editor (after searching through the paper)—"Ah—yes—um—here it is. You see, we've got a new sub and he put it under the head of 'Agricultural Notes,' as 'Hints on the Care of Sheep.'"

Lots of a Kind.

A Scotch farmer in one of the districts through which a line of railway is being constructed was the other day endeavoring to bring his cattle in with his collie. The cattle were on one side of the railway track, and the Scotchman was directing the dog from the other. He was not very successful, and the railway workmen indulged in much merriment at the Scotchman's predicament. "Gae awa wide off," was an order which collie did not seem to understand, and at every fresh repetition of it the railway men laughed more loudly. At last the Scotchman gave it up in disgust, yelling at the dog, "Ha, ye're an ignorant blockhead, an' there's lots o' ye'r kind here the noo!"

All that is usually needed to convince a man of the superior merits of the Farmer's Advocate is to show him a copy for careful perusal. Send for a couple of sample copies for that purpose, and you will soon be able to send us his subscription.

Siftings.

An American exchange says that the average State Fair side-show needs disinfecting badly. The same might be said of a great many side-shows in this country.

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If you expect to have your pigs fat within a reasonable time, feed them regularly. A big feed will not make up for a lost meal.

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This is the season when some farmers regard all pasture fields except their own as common property. They turn loose their pigs, steers and colts to find sustenance in the cold world, never reflecting that their visits to their neighbors' wheat stacks are just as objectionable to their neighbors as the visits of their neighbors' cattle are to them.

* * *

We learn from the Killarney Guide that quite a movement is going on in naming farms in Killarney district, and many farmers have got letter-heads printed bearing the name of the farm. The suggestion was published in our columns a few months ago, and we are glad to see that it has taken effect. Every farmer should name his homestead. It costs nothing.

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At last the Governor-in-Council has signed the Amendments to the Grain Act, and it has become law. Truly, parliaments move slowly.

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Since the Alaskan Boundary Commission gave its report, Americans think arbitration is all right.

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The members of the Winnipeg Board of Trade who think the present Exhibition Park site suitable for a Dominion Exhibition, have, evidently, a pretty small idea as to the value of such an institution to this country.

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The big railway magnate of the Great Northern may think that a lot of people from his adopted country who are now on Canadian soil will be back again, but he'll be mighty badly fooled. They have not crossed for fun. There are fortunes in our prairies for the newcomers, and they will get them.

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Rosthern, Sask., has an agitation in favor of a meat-curing plant. All necessary facilities are said to be in sight.

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The first plow ever used in what is now the State of Montana is still in existence at a place near Manhattan. It was made from old wagon tires by a local smithy, at a cost of \$125.00.

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Reports from different points in Southern Manitoba are to the effect that a great deal of fall plowing has been done, and much of the land will be in good condition for a crop next season.

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The number of accidents that have been recorded during this year's shooting season has been appalling, and is conclusive evidence that every man who goes hunting is not fit to carry a gun.

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The latest fad in farming is reported from Atikokan on the C. N. Railway, west of Mine Center, where an enterprising individual has undertaken to raise foxes within an enclosure. Some of his favorites are black and others gray. The second generation has appeared, and the venture is said to give signs of success.

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The United States Government has made arrangements with the Chippewa Indians, whereby the Red Lake Reservation in Minnesota will be thrown open for settlement at ten o'clock on Nov. 10th. The district consists of 768,887 acres.

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The Indians of Piapot's Reserve brought thirty loads of wheat into Regina one day recently, and, according to the "West," it graded the best of any that had been offered on the Regina market up to that time.

Customs Valuation of Horses too Low.

As an outcome of the active demand for horses which has existed in this country during the past two or three years, a great deal of range stock has been crossing the boundary from the adjoining States to the south. Although a few of these animals have been of a type suited to light farm work, the great majority have represented a class that are always dear at any price. Nevertheless, a great many have found their way onto Western farms and ranches, where, much to the detriment of the development of our horse-breeding industry, a considerable percentage have been used for breeding purposes.

Anyone who has ever been engaged in horse-raising is aware that it costs practically as much to raise a poor horse as it does a good one, and hence the question has arisen, why should this inferior stuff be allowed to flood the country and deteriorate the average standard of Western horses at a time when the tendency should be toward something higher. This subject was pretty fully discussed at the annual meeting of the Manitoba Horse-breeders' Association, held in Winnipeg last February, and also at the Territorial breeders' meeting at Calgary in May. At the former a strong resolution was passed and forwarded to the Dominion Government, praying that the minimum valuation on horses crossing "the line" be placed at one hundred dollars; or, in other words, that every horse crossing be considered worth at least one hundred dollars, and be taxed accordingly. In defence of this it was argued, and, we believe, rightly, that a horse worth less than that sum was not calculated to be any improvement to the horseflesh of the country, and, hence, his importation should not be encouraged. The Territorial breeders favored raising the valuation from the present rate of twenty-five dollars per head to fifty, and a resolution was forwarded to Ottawa, praying that the change be made. So far, however, nothing has been done, and according to the report of a deputation from the Ontario Horse-breeders, which visited Ottawa a few weeks ago, to ask, among other things, that the minimum valuation of American horses crossing to Canada be raised, no change may be expected until more forceful appeals are made.

It would appear that the Government is afraid of depriving the farmers who are not horse-breeders of cheap horses. A little investigation, however, shows that the dealer, and not the farmer, is the only individual who is, under the present regulation, receiving benefit. Not long ago a representative of this paper had the privilege of inspecting a band of one hundred Colorado horses that were being offered for sale at Lethbridge, Alta. These animals had passed the customs at Coutts, where they were valued at from twenty-five to thirty-five dollars, but when they got a little further north the dealer considered them worth on an average at least sixty, if sold to one buyer, and as prices go at present our representative considered they were not rated much too high. But why was more duty not charged? Is the customs department being defrauded? From enquiry we believe that the valuating officer at the point in question is quite as capable as most men in his position. The difficulty seems to be that the present regulation is only calculated to be enforced in a half-hearted way. From the instructions sent out by the Commissioner of Customs to collectors of customs, dated Dec. 18th, 1902, we read: "You may estimate the fair market value of horses fit to be imported into Canada, as a general rule, to be not less than twenty-five to thirty dollars each, in view of their advance within a recent period."

On a twenty-five dollar horse the duty is but five dollars crossing from United States to Canada, whereas if a Canadian wishes to take any kind of a horse to the States, he is obliged to pay at least thirty dollars. It is but another case where the American Government is protecting an industry, while its inferior stuff is being dumped on Canadian soil. Is it not time that the matter should be presented to the Government with all the force that its importance demands?

Warehouse Commissioner Castle reports that on October 14th the shipments of grain were one and a half million bushels behind the same period last year. The late harvest and unfavorable weather for threshing were undoubtedly responsible for the falling off.

Grain

It is seldom the influence of in the Amendment passed the F tion in grain r It is often said ers to stick to public question tory of farmers' the thinking pu Not infrequently and having appu a large members ness in a short t any desirable er movement which among the grain which was reinfo Manitoba last w ready been done put forth, and t have good reason ments to the Ma haps, not satisfi step toward rem edly would still organized effort other testimony will. No Govern the entreaties of portant as thos the country's we

The agitation has resulted in a more dollars of pocket than und party politicians was directly resp growers will be way that a chan rates and in the arisen in a body ernment or railw ived for regulati which now exist.

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